

Stanley Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

STANLEY,

FEBRUARY 4th, 1896.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present you with my Report for the year 1895. The number of notifiable diseases reported to me was 101 and the non-notifiable 38. The latter consisted of Measles and Whooping Cough, and the former of Scarlatina, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, and Erysipelas.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Scarlatina. Excepting in January this disease has been present in one or more parts of the District all the year. The first case appeared by importation at Havanna in February, and was followed by solitary cases until the end of May, when it apparently ceased. In June another imported case landed, but it was effectually isolated. In July it reappeared on the same premises, and also in the same neighbourhood of the February Outbreak, and from that time, and probably from that source, it has continued during the remainder of the year, touching every part of the District except Old South Moor. Although threatening more than once, it never assumed the form of an Epidemic. The total number of cases amounted to 77 with a mortality of 5.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever. The following list shews the number of cases and the localities where they occurred, viz.: in January, one at Stanley and one at New South Moor; in July, one at Stanley; in September, one each at Shield Row, brick Houses, Havanna, and East Stanley; in October, five at Havanna; in November, two at Havanna; and in December, one at Shield Row. Total 14 cases without a death. With regard to the origin of the above: the case at South Moor had been preceded by another in the same house. All those situated at Stanley, East Stanley, Shield Row, and the initial case at Havanna were not traceable. The remainder were the direct offspring of the last-mentioned case—Diphtheria. The one case reported ended fatally. That it was a severe case of Scarlatina, and not one of genuine Diphtheria is more than probable. There was no possible source to my knowledge from which the latter malady could have originated, and considering its intense infectiveness none followed. On the other hand, the former diseases had been recently in the same house.

Erysipelas. 9 cases occurred with 3 deaths, as regards infection none was conveyed from one to the other.

Measles invaded the District three times, viz. : in January, June, and August. The first occasion it ended with twenty-eight cases attacked, the second with three, and the third with two. The deaths were five. The two latter outbreaks were not unexpected, seeing that it was prevalent in the adjoining District practically across the street.

Whooping Cough. On two occasions a family moved into the District with one or more of their members suffering from Whooping Cough. Isolation was successfully managed. The number of cases was five, with one Death.

Croup. Two cases were given in the Death Returns, but no notification was sent. Evidently neither of them was considered infectious.

Influenza of a kind visited the District and was the primary cause of six deaths.

Diarrhœa was not more than ordinarily prevalent, but the returns give nine deaths as having occurred, all are however under the age of five years, and many are coupled with other diseases.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year was 373, and the deaths 215; the birth rate is equal to an annual ratio of 35·9 and the death rate to 20·6 per 1,000, estimating the population at 10,400. The estimate may be rather high, but in addition to the 1,700 houses contained in the District—at an average of six per house—there are two licensed lodging-houses, coupled with a large lodging population. The deaths from Infectious Diseases, excluding Diarrhœa, amount to 15—being at the rate of 7 per cent. of the whole. Infantile mortality shows a bad record: no less than 90 (over a third) died before reaching the age of one year. As Infectious Diseases play a very small part in this excessive mortality, it is unnecessary to particularise the exact causes.

Farther particulars relating to ages and causes of Death are given on the attached Schedule.

INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

During the year, building operations were brisk. One hundred and ten new houses have been erected with all their sanitary arrangements complete. Louisa Terrace, Oxhill, consisting of twenty-four houses that were closed on account of their insanitary condition, has since been practically rebuilt. The owners of ten houses, situated respectively at Shield Row, Hill Top, and Havanna, accepted verbal notice of closure, but requested an extension of time to enable them to build sufficient houses to accommodate all the out-going tenants. The new houses will be finished shortly and the old ones demolished. Formal notice was served upon the owners of Scott's Houses, Havanna, to have all dampness of walls and floors removed from six of the dwelling-houses or otherwise close them—the latter plan has been adopted so far. One house at South Moor will be closed or rendered habitable. Three hundred and fifty-four houses have been spouted and a large number of petty defects and nuisances remedied.

Fourteen additional out-offices of an improved pattern have been built to old property, and fifteen of the old kind put into good repair. Notice has been given to repair, cement and cover two large privy middens connected to 18 houses in Havanna, at present the contents pereolate through the walls close to the dwellings.

Suitable sewers and drains have been provided to all new houses. A main sewer has been laid to the Barraeks, Quaking Houses, and High Rows, South Moor, and all their connections attached. The whole of the sewerage from the South Moor portion of the District is now conveyed to the out-fall works.

The scavenging and removal of refuse have been fairly well attended to.

Slaughter-houses are very satisfactory.

The two licensed lodging-houses were frequently inspected and found clean and well conducted.

No Prosecution under "The Food and Drugs Act" was necessary.

No Magisterial Proceedings were required for the closure of insanitary houses.

The water is both good and abundant.

The Out-fall works at South Moor ought to be extended as speedily as possible, in their present condition unpurified sewerage passes through and pollutes the adjoining stream. Whenever any of the old privy-middens need repairing, no patching up should be allowed but thorough reconstruction enforced.

Whenever repairs are required to any dwelling-house having an unceiled room, such repairs should not be considered complete unless they include the ceiling of the room.

The removal of refuse would be better and more systematically carried out if placed under the direct control of your Council.

The great sewerage Scheme remains in "statu quo."

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. BENSON,
Medical Officer.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
STANLEY.



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Table of Deaths,

Classified according to Diseases and Ages.

				UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.	FIVE YEARS OF AGE AND UPWARDS.
Scarlatina	...	...	...	4	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	0
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	2	0
English Cholera	...	...	...	0	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1	2
Measles	...	...	...	4	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	0
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	...	...	...	9	0
Phthisis	...	...	...	0	16
Bronchitis, Pnenmonia, and Plurisy	...	...	...	22	9
Heart Disease...	...	...	...	1	16
Influenza	...	...	...	0	6
Injuries	...	...	...	0	3
All Other Diseases	...	...	...	74	41
				119	96
Under One Year old	...	...	...	90	
One and under Five	...	...	...	29	
Five and under Fifteen	...	...	...	12	
Fifteen and under Twenty-five	19	
Twenty-five and under Sixty-five	45	
Sixty-five and upwards	20	
				TOTAL	215

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T. J. JACKSON, PRINTER, FRONT STREET, STANLEY.